

to 31½ percent) once fully phased-in. Other companies would receive a sliding-scale effective rate reduction based on the value of their U.S. production of eligible products compared to the value of their worldwide production.

REVENUE NEUTRAL

The bill has been structured to be roughly revenue neutral year-by-year and over the 10-year budget period. The proposal does not include any extraneous revenue offsets.

THE OAK TREE BILL

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today, as the Commonwealth of Virginia celebrates its Arbor Day, to introduce legislation to recognize the people's selection of the oak tree as America's national tree. Selected by the American people during a 4-month-long open voting process sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation, the oak tree earned the title of America's Chosen National Tree. To recognize this distinction, I am proud to introduce legislation today that officially establishes the oak tree as America's national tree.

As a member of Congress representing a heavily forested district in Virginia, I know firsthand how trees add to our quality of life. As chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I appreciate how trees and forests enhance the environment, add recreational opportunities and provide for the livelihoods of millions of individuals in the forest industry. Whether enjoying a product generated from a forest, or the simple satisfaction of lying under a shaded giant, trees contribute to all Americans.

The strong and stately oak tree is of particular importance in America's history and culture. Not only is this majestic tree an aesthetic beauty that characterizes the landscape of much of our great Nation, it also provides us with wood products in our homes, our offices and our places of gathering. Common to all 50 states, the oak has played a huge role in America's history as a valuable resource. It helped our founding fathers establish a new Nation, supplying building materials for the ever-expanding 13 original colonies. It served as a familiar sight to pioneers as they forged across the new republic to the west coast. And to this day it has remained an enduring, valuable, and highly prized raw material from which beautifully crafted furniture, sturdy door and window framing, ornate flooring and paneling, and the like, are made. This enduring and mighty tree, which has long been a part of our national heritage and strength, fully merits the distinction of America's National tree.

The oak tree has also played a key role in many specific historic moments in our Nation's history. Abraham Lincoln found his way across a river near Homer, IL, using the Salt River Ford Oak as a marker. The Richards White Oak in Cecil County, MD once served as a landmark on a 1681 map used by William Penn. Andrew Jackson took shelter under Louisiana's Sunnybrook Oaks on his way to the Battle of New Orleans. And "old iron-sides," the USS *Constitution*, earned its nickname from the strength of its live oak hull, famous for easily repelling British cannonballs.

Chosen by the people in a broad-based election, the oak tree represents the true characteristics of this great Nation: strength, beauty and endurance. Please join me in making official what we have known for many years—that the oak tree is America's national tree.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 95) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2003 and 2005 through 2013:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, it is ironic that we are voting on this resolution today when not one of the working people or business leaders visiting my office recently has asked me to support this budget or its tax cuts. Rather, they want the Federal Government to pass a budget that will help jump start the economy and improve our communities in Oregon and across the country by investing in transportation infrastructure, environmental cleanup, "hometown" security, education, and health care.

The concerns I voiced last month regarding the budget resolution remain valid and unaddressed in this conference report. It sets the stage for the largest budget deficit in our history and without even taking into consideration our significant financial commitment to rebuild and stabilize Iraq and Afghanistan. As our economy remains stagnant, this budget provides little help for our states, which are struggling to balance their budgets among decreasing revenues, higher Medicaid costs, and colossal homeland security demands.

Our Nation's cities are paying an estimated \$70 million per week on additional homeland security as a result of the war and high terrorism threat alerts. Instead of helping our communities with these costs, the proposed elimination of the dividend tax would reduce Oregon's 2003 revenue by \$91 billion, contributing to Oregon's current budget gap of \$1.3 billion. I oppose this budget which sacrifices these fundamental priorities and long-term fiscal stability.

CONGRATULATING CHARLOTTE TAYLOR FOR WINNING THE 2003 VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Charlotte Taylor, a senior at Elkhart Memorial High School, in Elkhart, Indiana, who has been named a National Winner in the 2003 Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program. This annual contest, sponsored by the

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary, is especially significant this year given America's fight for democracy at home and abroad. The theme for this year's contest, "Freedom's Obligation" is echoed poignantly in the words of Ms. Taylor. I share with you these words, and applaud Ms. Taylor not only for her success, but her desire to champion the cause of liberty.

The tone of America has changed and it is a sound that is comforting us in times of pain. Growing up in America, I am familiar with the grand tradition of the country, but it is in the present I can truly identify what patriotism is. A flame has been lit inside my soul and I understand that with my freedom comes an obligation. An obligation to sacrifice, and to believe.

I work in the Hospital on a Geriatric unit. My job is to talk with the patients, most of whom were either veterans, or lost loved ones in one of the wars. I listen to their stories, and watch the pain in their faces as they recount the price they paid for my freedom. One woman's sacrifice stands out in my mind. Her father fought in World War I. He came home a changed man, abusive and suffering from posttraumatic stress syndrome. He terrorized her, until finally she became old enough to leave home. Eventually she got married and her husband served in World War II. While he fared well fighting in the war, she was left alone raising three young children. One of those children would grow up to die in Vietnam; a victim of Agent Orange. The entire time I sat and chatted with this woman, she never expressed resentment toward her country or the men she lost who served it. She understood her obligation of sacrifice as I do. If I refuse this duty, the millions before me who lost their lives will have lost their lives in vain.

It also is my obligation to support freedom. Believing in a system that has supported me is the least I can do. I study current events, and problems through out the world. Every time I read about the plight people in non democratic countries face, I realize how fortunate I am to have the opportunity to make something of my life. Because of these opportunities I am obligated to support freedom by becoming a productive member of society. It is my obligation to pay taxes and more importantly to vote. While I am not old enough to vote in this year's election, I convinced both of my parents to register to vote. My solitary voice caused two people to cast ballots this election year. Single voices being heard is what freedom is all about.

More than anything I am beginning to understand what patriotism feels like. Last Friday night I played America the Beautiful on the xylophone with our high school marching band during half time. The fans sang along, and never in my life have I felt so united with my country. I drive down the road with an American flag sticker on my car, and I see that hundreds of others have done the same. On the Wednesday after the world trade center attacks I went to the hospital to see if I could help the blood bank. I was turned away because so many volunteers had already come to offer their services. The Senior Auxiliary was touched that so many young people were trying to help and that more importantly we understood the magnitude of what was happening. At a time in our lives when much of what we do is centered around ourselves, Young people do understand our obligation to defend America's Freedom with our time and energy, or even our lives.

The tone of America is changing, and it is the pleasant sound of unity. While the country may not be singing the same song, at